PREFACE

The period from the seventh to twelfth Century CE (which is known as Early Medieval period) witnessed the rise and fall of several kingdoms in India. Taking the advantage of these chaotic conditions of India, the Mohammedans invasions started on India. Historians have so far paid their attention only to the political history of this period especially the Rajput Age. Feudal system developed to the highest peak during this period. They contributed the regional languages and literature. This period was not only remarkable for political interaction in South India but also for cultural development. In South India, politically it was a glorious age of history. History cannot be regarded as complete without the study of history of literature especially the Sanskrit language. There is no doubt that several scholars have dealt with the early medieval period, but there is no single work making a complete study of the literary activities, which were composed that time.

Literature is the mirror of a civilization. It is the record of the hoary past. Literary activities are essential for the development of a nation. Literature as whole grows and changes from time to time. It is not static but dynamic. It is the powerful engine of intellectual activities. Study of Literature occupies a prominent place in the History and vice-versa. Its study is very important for every student of history. Literature and History are inter-linked and depend each other in much way. Literature is major source of history. As guide to the people and as a moulder of human character and norms of righteous conduct, (wrong and right), the special role of the two great epics (the Rāmāyaṇa and the Mahābhārata) which are the plots of many writings, and their hold over the hearts and minds of the people is very
important. The Indian civilization produced philosophers, astronomers, mathematicians, social reformers, seers and saints, renowned scholars, court-poets, and last but not the least several prominent rulers. The great seers, saints etc. were the architect of great and glorious literature of early medieval India.

The whole work has been divided into seven chapters. The first chapter is related to the Introduction and Review of Literature. Second chapter deals with the political background of India. Even India was divided into many states but rulers patronized the scholars and motivated them for literacy activities. Third chapter is deals with Sanskrit language and its literature in detail. This chapter is divided into two parts. In Part-I, Drama, Lyric Poetry, Prose literature, Historical writings, Epics, Champū literature are covered. The part-II, the scientific literature, covers the topics of Grammar, Lexicography, Metrics, Astromany, Astrology and Mathematics, Medicine, Poetics and Dramaturgy, Erotic, Dharamaśāstra, Philosophy, Arthaśāstra, and Music. Chapter N. four deals with Dravidian languages and literature, explain the Tamil, Telugu, Kannaḍa and Malayālāma language and their literature. Fifth Chapter is related to Jaina and Buddhist literature. The sixth chapter deals with Impact of literary activities, which is very important and unique work. The last chapter deals with conclusions and observations.

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